Non availability of coal for Power Plants

688. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Electricity Authority has identified twenty-two power stations across the country as 'critical', mostly due to non-availability of coal, resulting in shortfalls in generation capacity across the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that if the supplies are not perked up, the pwoer stations may also reach the 'super critical' category, where coal stocks would be left for less than four days; and

(c) if the steps Government proposes to take to supply adequate coal to power stations?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) As on 22.11.2007, twenty-nine (29) thermal power stations in the country were in critical category with coal stock for less than 7 days and eighteen (18) out of these were in super critical category with stock for less than 4 days. However, no generation loss has been reported due to shortage of coal during the year 2007-08 (up to 31st October 2007). If coal supply is not stepped up, generation may be affected.

(c) The coal supply position to thermal power stations in the country has been reviewed by the Central Electricity Authority, Ministry of Power as well as the Infrastructure Constraints Review Committee in the Cabinet Secretariat. A contingency plan for improving the stock of coal in the power station having critical stock has been chalked out by way of redistribution of coal supply from the domestic sources. The need for expediting import of coal has also been impressed upon the States/Power Utilities. NTPC has been advised to import coal through the Western Coast to ease the port congestion at Haldia and Paradip ports and to overcome constraints in transportation of coal by the Railways from these ports on the Eastern Coast.

Assitance to States for Power Projects

689. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand from the State Governments to provide them special financial assistance from the Union Government for construction of power projects and for strengthening the energy accounting and auditing system in State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by Union Government in this regard;

(c) whether some projects are being implemented with the World Bank loan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) According to the information received from Planning Commission, some of the State Governments mainly in the North-Eastern Region and Jammu & Kashmir have sought financial assistance for construction of power projects during the Tenth Plan period and for the current Annual Plan 2007-08. In regard to J & K, the assistance sought has been covered under the PM's Reconstruction Plan. In addition, Bihar State has also been provided fund by the Union Government for the Power Sector under Special Plan. The details indicating the year-wise funds sanctioned by Planning Commission for these States is enclosed as Statement-I. (*See* below) Furthermore, Planning Commission has reported that no proposal from the State